

## **Historic, Archive Document**

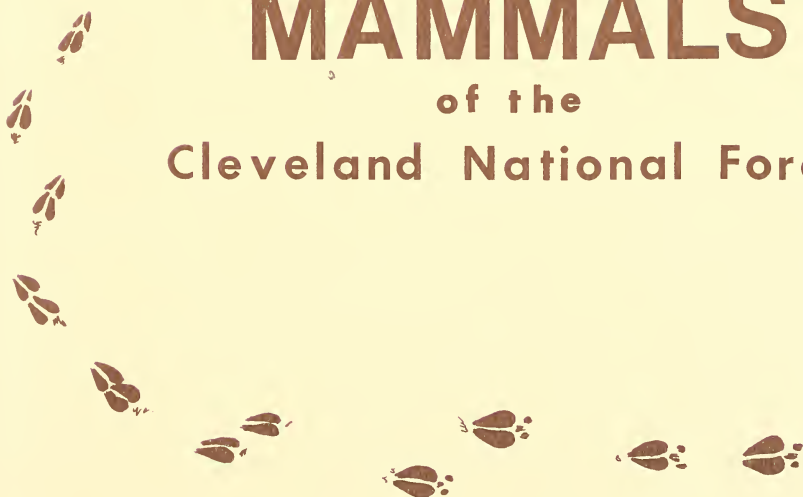
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**MAMMALS**  
of the  
**Cleveland National Forest**



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE

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Streamside areas and woodlands are desirable habitats for many mammals. You usually prefer these same areas for recreation. So be considerate of the animals' needs. Trails, grassy openings and the "edges" between plant communities are also good spots to watch for them.

A major key to encouraging wildlife is to provide their habitat needs (listed above). To do this, the Forest Service, in its wildlife management program, provides water troughs (i.e. "drinkers"); wildlife foods through planting; new habitat and feeding areas through prescribed burning, thinning of the forest, and developing browse paths; artificial nesting sites; and shelter and homes through creating brush piles and placing logs. By creating more diversity in the environment, we increase the ability of the land to support more wildlife.

We also are studying habitat needs of deer, ringtail, bobcat, mountain lion, and others to learn more about their survival requirements so we may continue to maintain healthy populations of each.

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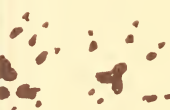
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# SMALL MAMMALS

## MICE AND RATS

Several species of mice are found through the forest. These include pocket mouse, California mouse, canyon mouse, cactus mouse, brush mouse, deer mouse, western harvest mouse and house mouse. All of them feed on seeds, nuts or insects.

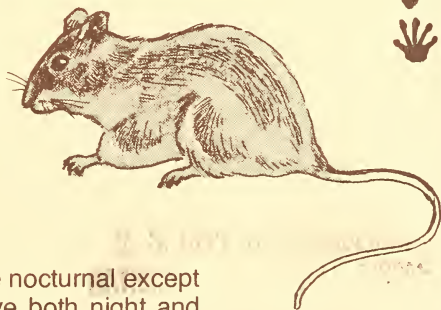


The **Vole**, or **Meadow Mouse**, (*Microtus*) is similar in size to a mouse but has a less pointed nose and smaller ears. It is found in grassy meadows and hillsides. Its presence can be detected by narrow runways through the grass.



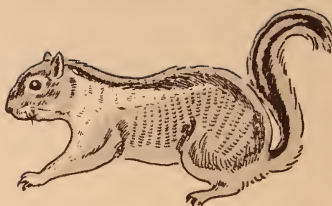
**Kangaroo Rats** (*Dipodomys*) vary in color from pale yellow to dark brown. They have long hind legs, long tails, and short front legs. The name 'kangaroo' comes from their excellent jumping ability.

**Woodrats** (*Neotoma fuscipes*) are about the size of a house rat. Their nests consist of mounds of sticks and brush and are found at the base of dense brush or in live oak trees.



All of these animals are nocturnal except the vole, which is active both night and day. They are all a primary source of food for predators such as owls, coyotes, and foxes.

## SQUIRRELS



The most common squirrel in the Cleveland National Forest is the **California Ground Squirrel** (*Citellus beecheyi*). This active brownish-grey animal lives in burrows, not in trees. It eats fruit, seeds or leaves. Since ground squirrels are communal animals, they are covered with fleas, ticks and lice.



In the wooded portion of the forest, **Northern Flying Squirrels** (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) can be found. These tiny squirrels have glossy brown fur. Aided by a layer of loose skin along each of its sides, a flying squirrel can glide from tree to tree. Strictly nocturnal, they are found only in deciduous or coniferous forests.



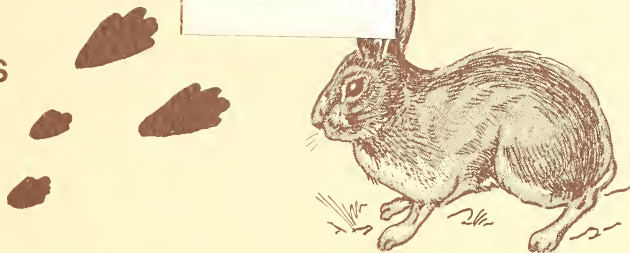
The **Western Gray Squirrel** (*Sciurus griseus*) has a gray body, dark feet, and bushy tail. It can be seen during the day primarily in oak woodland or mixed conifer forests. It is primarily an acorn eater.



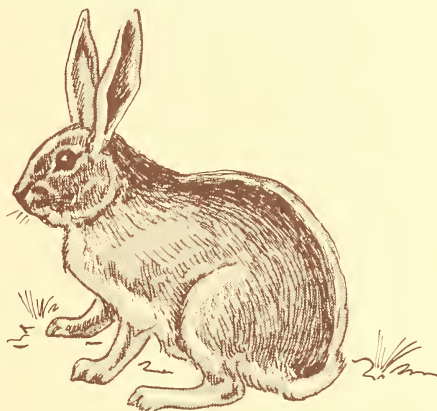
The **Merriam Chipmunk** (*Eutamias merriami*). This inquisitive little chipmunk is a good illustration of Gloger's principle: that mammals are less heavily pigmented in drier habitats than in humid areas. You'll find this chipmunk in both chaparral and mixed oak/pine forests.



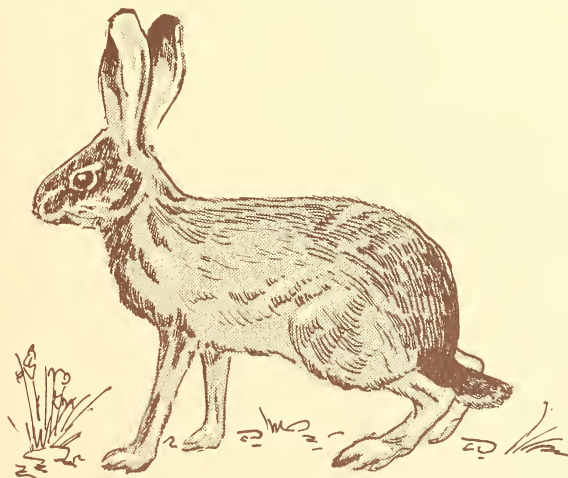
## RABBITS



The **Brush Rabbit** (*Sylvilagus bachmani*) is a small brown rabbit with a small white tail. It rarely uses a burrow, but stays close to thick brush for cover. It makes runways through the brush to move about more freely.



**Desert Cottontails** (*Sylvilagus auduboni*) are larger and lighter in color than the Brush Rabbit. They are found in foothills and low valleys and are mainly active during the late afternoons and evenings.



**Blacktail Jackrabbits** (*Lepus californicus*) are members of the hare family and can be distinguished by their long ears, long hind legs and black-tipped tails. They are most active at night.

## OTHER SMALL MAMMALS



**Ornate Shrew**



**Gray Shrew**



Both the **Ornate Shrew** (*Sorex ornatus*) and the **Gray Shrew** (*Notisorex crawfordi*) are found in the forest. Shrews resemble mice but are primarily insect eaters. Because of their high metabolic rate, shrews must consume their weight in food three times daily. They will feed on snails, insects, worms, and other small animals.



A mound of dirt 8 to 20 inches long marks the burrow of the **Valley Pocket Gopher** (*Thomomys bottae*). Although mounds are often seen, it is rare to see the animal above ground. Its long claws and sharp teeth are excellent tools for digging.

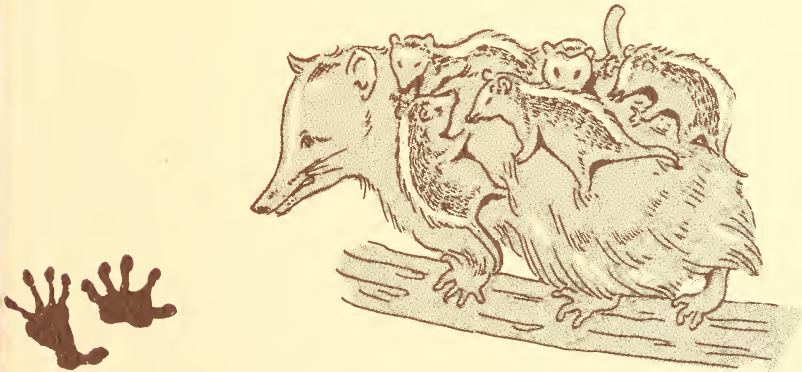


The **Longtail Weasel** (*Mustela frenata*) is a slender animal 9 to 10½ inches long. The southwest version is characterized by a brown body, white underparts and white marks framing the face. It is one of the most vicious animals in California and will prey on animals larger than itself.





Little is known about the **Ringtail Cat** (*Bassariscus astutus*) population in the forest except that it exists. These animals are about the size of a large squirrel. They feed on mice, birds, and lizards, as well as fruit, insects and berries. The Forest Service is currently studying these animals to estimate numbers and health of the population.



Looking like a large gray rat, the **Opossum** (*Didelphis marsupialis*) is often seen on the roadways at night. These animals eat fruit, nuts, eggs, insects and carrion or dead meat. The opossum is the only marsupial animal with a stomach pouch) in the United States. The young are born premature and complete their growth in the furlined pouch of the female.

## MEDIUM SIZED MAMMALS



The **Badger** (*Taxidea taxus*) is a heavy-bodied, yellowish-gray mammal. Note the white stripe on its head. Its long claws are excellent tools for digging for lizards and small rodents and also for making its den. It is mainly nocturnal. Its den hole is 9 to 10 inches wide and oval in shape. Be cautious around this animal; it's quick and fearless.



"The Little Masked Bandit" or **Raccoon** (*Procyon lotor*) has a black mask and bushy tail with dark rings. Raccoons will eat almost anything. They are usually found near water and are active at night.

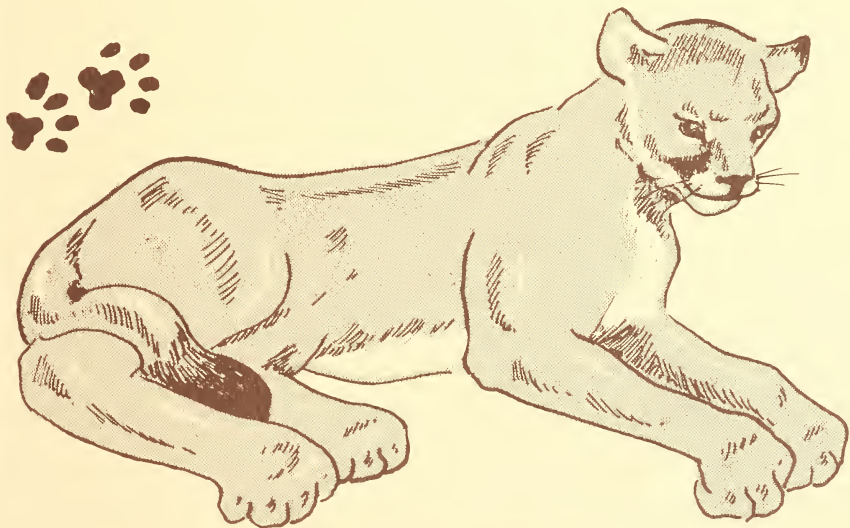


Both **Striped Skunks** (*Mephitis mephitis*) and **Spotted Skunks** (*Spilogale putorius*) are found in the area. The striped skunk has a white stripe on its head and running down its back. The spotted skunk is marked with broken white stripes giving it a spotted appearance. It is about the size of a half grown kitten. Both skunks feed on rats and mice and so are a help in controlling the rodent population.

## CAT FAMILY

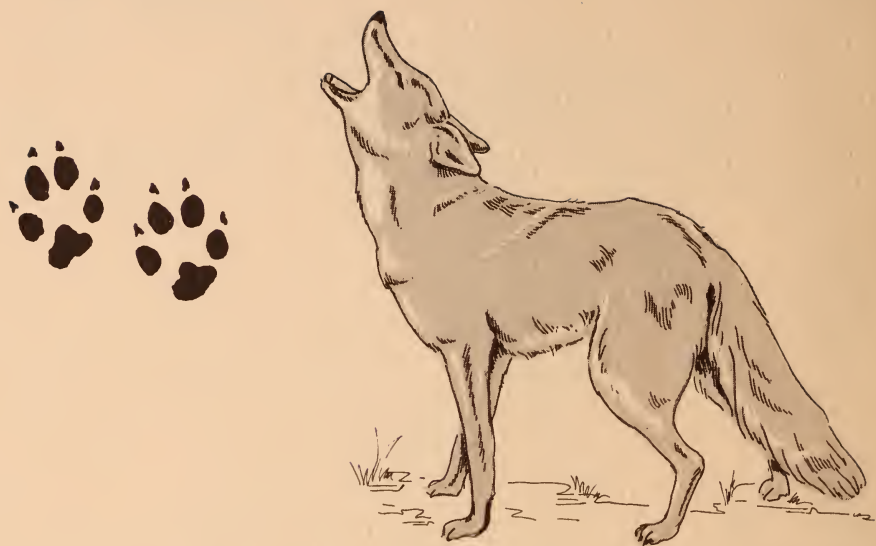


Named for the short "bobbed" appearance of their tail, **Bobcats** (*Lynx rufus*) are mostly nocturnal. They vary in weight from 15 to 35 pounds. A bobcat's coat is tawny brown with dark spots. The Forest Service is currently studying the status of this animal in the Santa Ana Mountains.

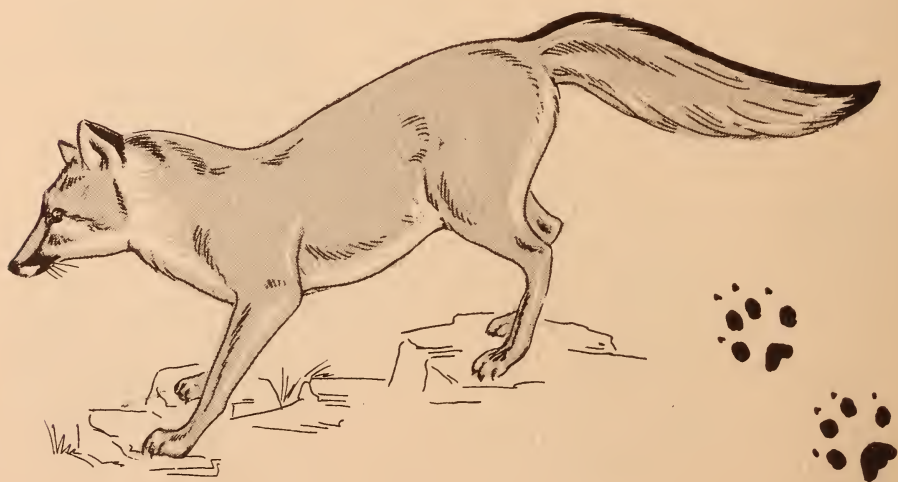


The elusive and shy **Mountain Lion** (*Felis concolor*) has a tawny to gray coat. It hunts usually in evening or early morning for deer and other mammals. Recently the Forest Service estimated that 18 to 21 lions inhabit the Cleveland National Forest.

## DOG FAMILY



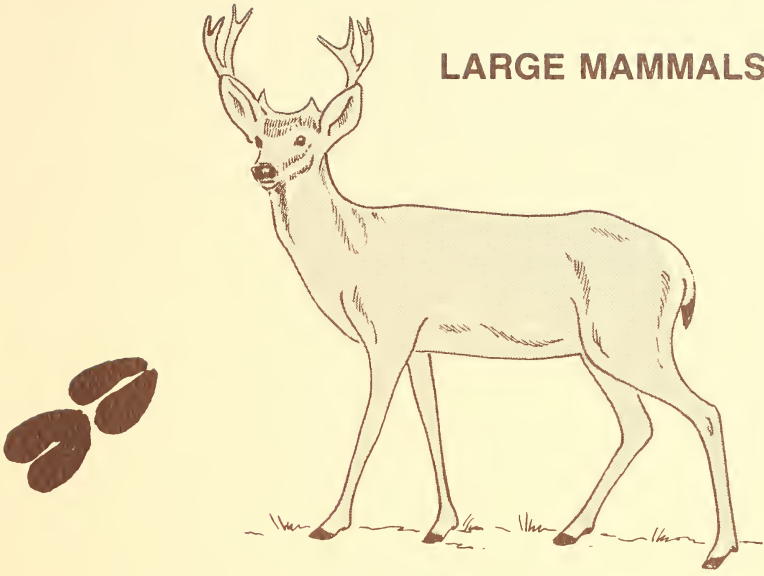
A common animal in the area is the **Coyote** (*Canis latrans*). It resembles a dog with a grayish-tan colored coat. Coyotes kill many rodents, thereby performing a valuable service to man. Their eerie howl can often be heard at night.



The **Gray Fox** (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) is gray and rust in color. This fox is quite shy and prefers dense woodland or chaparral. When threatened it will climb trees to escape its enemies. A slow runner, the gray fox can reach speeds of 28 miles per hour for short distances.

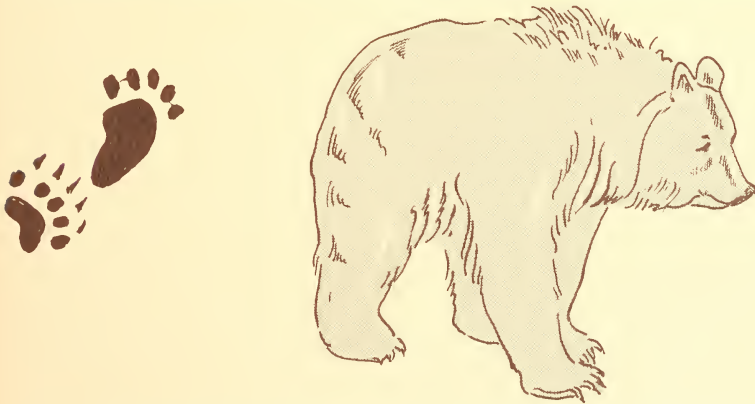


## LARGE MAMMALS



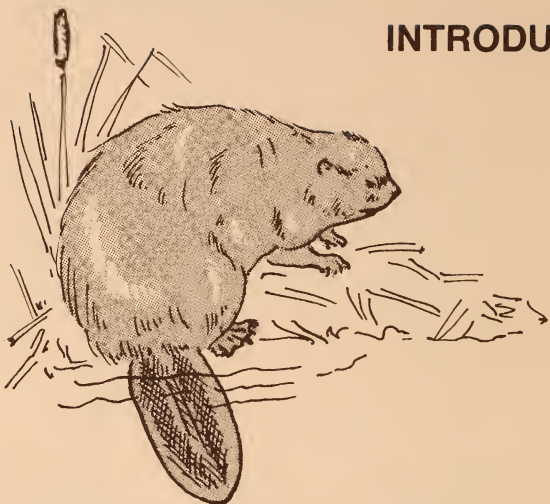
**Mule Deer** (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are usually seen in the early morning and evening. They feed on grasses, shrubs and bark of certain trees. Males shed their antlers yearly. There are an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 deer on the Forest. Pathways and fuel breaks through the thick brush have been developed by the Forest Service, which allow easier passage and increase the amounts of new growth eaten by deer.

Hunting deer in season is a positive factor for the deer herd. By keeping the populations in control the herd stays healthy. In a noncontrolled situation, food shortages may occur and the members become sick and weak.



The Santa Ana Mountain Range was the home of the **Grizzly Bear** (*Ursus horribilis*). The last grizzly was shot in 1908 in Trabuco Canyon. It is hoped that proper wildlife habitat management will prevent any other native animals from becoming extinct on the Forest. Your assistance in minimizing man's presence will help.

## INTRODUCED MAMMALS



**Beaver** (*Castor canadensis*) were introduced to several streams on the Forest in 1948 by California State Fish and Game Department. Evidences of dams, runways, dens, and downed trees indicate their presence.



Sightings of **Black Bear** (*Ursus americanus*) prints have been recorded in recent years. Although the black bear is not native, introduction could have come by private citizens releasing bears.



**Elk** was introduced in the 1950's, but did not survive because of the limited habitat, increased numbers of visitors, and some incidental hunting.





## MAN — ANIMAL CONFLICTS



Because man and wildlife often prefer the same sites, conflicts are inevitable. Remember : we are the intruders into their homes. By being considerate of their needs, we can decrease our impacts on them.

You can help!

When you come across wildlife, enjoy the moment and let the animal pass undisturbed.

Leave young animals where you find them; they may appear “abandoned,” but chances are a parent is nearby.

Leave undisturbed any dead logs, oak trees, burrows, and grassy meadows; these all may be animal-homes.

Learn how you can increase wildlife habitat by the way *you* landscape your home. Extensive lawns are biological “deserts”; *diversity* is the key.

Through combined efforts between visitors and the Forest Service, wildlife populations of the Cleveland National Forest will remain strong and healthy.



# WHO LIVES WHERE

Generally, mammals can be found in a certain habitat type. However, they may be found in other areas depending upon specific circumstances, season and time of day. The richest area for wildlife is on an edge of two differing plant communities: between grassland and chaparral for example. Water sources are another area of substantial wildlife use.

The following list groups mammals according to the plant community in which they are most likely to be seen and at what times the animals are most active.

## Grassland

Badger — mainly night  
Deer — early morning and evening  
Coyote — mostly night  
Jackrabbit — mostly night  
Mice — night  
Voles — day and night  
Ornate Shrew — day and night



## Coniferous Forest

Gray Squirrel — day  
Flying Squirrel — night  
Black Bear — day or night  
Mountain Lion — evening and  
early morning  
Mule Deer

## Dense Chaparral

Woodrat — night  
Brush Rabbit — day and night  
Bobcat — night  
Gray Fox — night  
Ringtail — night



## Open or Disturbed Areas

Opossum — night

Ground Squirrel — day

Pocket Gopher — day and night

Mule Deer



## Riparian (Streamside)

Raccoon — mostly night

Spotted Skunk — night

Beaver — day

Deer — early morning and evening.

Weasel — mostly night

Mountain Lion — same as Deer

## Open Chaparral

Kangaroo Rat — night

Grey Shrew — day and night

Striped Skunk — night

Coyote — mostly night

Deer and Mountain Lion — early morning and evening

Ringtail — night



## Oak Woodland

Deer — early morning and evening

Woodrat — night

Gray Fox — night

Mountain Lion — evening and early morning



## Bats

Flying about at night  
near cliffs, or old snags  
and tall trees



MOUSE

RABBIT

OPOSSUM

BOBCAT



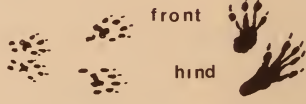
RACCOON



COYOTE



SQUIRREL



SKUNK



DEER